

I have learned of Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to have their stations air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election without airing a pro-Kerry piece shortly before or after. This is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. This is a huge issue nationally and the FCC must address access of all views and free speech in the media outlets. Centralized media is not good for our communities. News and information simply becomes so much spin for on high, while our local issues are not covered or addressed and the public is left uninformed about their own community issues, yet get mega doses of partisan politics that the broadcasting companies' leadership favors.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of the honest debate we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter to us.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the FCC needs to overhaul the license renewal process and curb ownership of media outlets in just a few hands. The FCC needs to proactively monitor and insist on compliance by all media outlets and broadcasting companies. Our democracy is at stake. Manipulation of the public is not democracy in action, it's what we Americans accused the Soviets and Nazis of in their use of propaganda, and is weakening our society and our nation. I urge you in the FCC to take the reins, and reign in Sinclair Broadcasting and those operating like them. Thank you.